



# Earthquake Program

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Emergency Management Division  
Washington Military Department

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## Background

Washington State is earthquake country. The state has a rich history of great earthquakes--shocks of magnitude 8 or larger--and of tsunamis generated by them. More than 1,000 earthquakes are recorded in our state each year. Due to the increase in population, infrastructure, and construction, the next great earthquake is expected to have significant impact in terms of loss of life and to the state's economy.

The Earthquake Program delivers action-oriented public awareness and education activities, training for critical emergency hazards, and cost-effective earthquake hazard mitigation. In addition, the program coordinates statewide seismic planning and preparedness.

## Benefits

The goals are to save lives, protect property and preserve the environment and economy by reducing the hazards caused by earthquake and other geologic hazards present in our state. This is accomplished through an effective hazard mitigation program and providing technical assistance through an information clearinghouse on a variety of seismic related issues and activities.

## Accomplishments

Coordinated state and regional activities have resulted in increased levels of earthquake preparedness throughout Washington and the northwest. A statewide Earthquake Awareness Day featuring a "Drop, Cover, and Hold" drill is initiated annually by the Governor reaching more than 2.5 million citizens. The development of Washington's NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Emergency Information Network that includes the use of the NWR and All-Hazard Alert Broadcasting (AHAB) Radio ensures the public receives prompt and reliable all hazard warnings in the time of crisis's. In addition, the program provides tsunami and volcano mitigation resources for use by city, county and state government.

## Outlook

The Earthquake Program provides state leadership in coordination of mitigation, preparedness, and response efforts to seismic and other geologic hazards present in our state. Through these continued efforts, recovery from a major earthquake, tsunami or volcanic eruption should be considerably faster and save lives, with fewer prolonged negative economic, social, and environmental impacts on communities and businesses.

## Contact

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